



# Salem provides a learning experience for BMCC and other leaders

By [Terry Murry](#) on Monday, February 23rd, 2026 in [Columbia Basin News](#) [More Top Stories](#)



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**SALEM** – Blue Mountain Community College student leaders were on hand to be recognized during Community College Day at the capitol last week. They attended to advocate for access to higher education and career technical programs.

Also last week, Rep. Greg Smith (R-Heppner) hosted participants in the Proud River Leadership Academy. That group is comprised of people considered to be future leaders in Umatilla and Morrow Counties.

During the BMCC visit, Associated Student Government President Katheryn Gomez, and Vice President Katelyn Demianew met with legislators to discuss the importance of community colleges in rural areas as well as student access, workforce

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development, and community partnerships.

Sen. Todd Nash (R-Enterprise) introduced Gomez to the Oregon Senate and she shared her story as a first-generation college student.

The Proud River Leadership Academy, at the invitation of Rep. Smith, received an in-depth look at the legislative process and citizen advocacy in action.

The attendees engaged directly with lawmakers, lobbyists, and legislative staff. They also met with Gov. Tina Kotek, Sen. Nash, and numerous other members of the Oregon Legislature.

*BMCC ASG President Katheryn Gomez and Sen. Todd Nash*



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